

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method comprising
providing a computer network subscriber with a networking transmission service having
a first characteristic related to a quality of service associated with the networking transmission
service,
observing at the network that the provided networking transmission service to the
computer network subscriber has a second characteristic; and
billing the computer network subscriber for the networking transmission service having
the second characteristic rather than for the service having the first characteristic.
2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein observing further comprises:
determining at the network that resources are not available for providing the first level of
networking transmission service; and, in response to said determination,
providing a second level of networking transmission service.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 wherein providing the second level of
networking transmission service further comprises:
reassessing and redefining the deployed networking transmission service.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3 further comprising:
determining whether reassessment and redefining of the deployed networking
transmission policy was successful.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
determining whether there has been packet loss; and
wherein determining packet loss comprises:
deploying a packet detector monitor in the network to generate network
accounting records that can be used to determine packet loss.
6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein providing further comprises:

establishing a differentiate services policy that is decomposed into a collection of configurations and deployed in a network.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 6 wherein providing further comprises:

deploying the configurations to a collection of routers or switches that the customer would have access to in the network.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein observing observes a large number of network flows.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein observing further comprises:

using an accounting process that produces information at a granularity level at which the policies are actually deployed.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the policies are deployed at the source and destination IP address, protocol and/or destination port level.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method comprising

providing a computer network subscriber with a networking policy having a first level of service,

collecting data from the computer network using an accounting process that collects different kinds of metrics from the computer network, said metrics related to a quality of service, and said accounting process correlates the metrics to specified computer network flows, and relates the collected and correlated metrics back to the policy that was defined with the first level of service; and

billing the computer network subscriber for the networking policy having a second level of service rather than for the policy having the first level of service.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 further comprising:

providing an indication whether or not the policy with the first level of service is being satisfied.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 further comprising:
determining at the network that resources are not available for providing the transmission service at the first level of service; and, in response to said determination,
providing a second level of networking transmission service.
14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13 wherein providing the second level of networking transmission service further comprises:
reassessing and redefining the deployed networking transmission service.
15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14 further comprising:
determining whether reassessment and redefining of the deployed networking transmission policy was successful.
16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 further comprising:
determining whether there has been packet loss and wherein determining packet loss comprises:
deploying a packet detector monitor in the network to generate network accounting records that can be used to determine packet loss.
17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein providing further comprises:
establishing a differentiate services policy that is decomposed into a collection of configurations and deployed in a network.
18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein providing further comprises:
deploying the configurations to a collection of routers or switches that the customer would have access to in the network.
19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the accounting process produces information at a granularity level at which the policies are actually deployed.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 wherein the policies are deployed at source and destination IP address, protocol and/or destination port level.

21. (Currently Amended) A method of billing a subscriber, comprising:

accepting a contract with the subscriber to provide a networking transmission service having a first characteristic related to a quality of service associated with the networking transmission service;

providing the subscriber with provided networking transmission service;

observing at the network that the provided networking transmission service to the subscriber has a second characteristic; and

billing the subscriber for the networking transmission service having the second characteristic rather than for the service having the first characteristic.